

To the Members of the California State Assembly,

I am returning Assembly Bill 2810 without my signature. I support meaningful protections for students of California's private postsecondary and vocational institutions which is why my Administration and the Legislature worked together to craft a meaningful reform package this year. Unfortunately, the reform measure, SB 1473 did not pass out of the Legislature this year.

The fundamental problems with the Private Postsecondary and Vocational Education program have been studied extensively and well documented over the years. In 2004, I signed SB 1544 which appropriated \$150,000 to study this program and make recommendations on how to fix it. The Bureau's Operations and Administrative Monitor, issued an exhaustive report in September 2005, stating that the statutes were fundamentally flawed and without complete statutory reform the program would be destined for failure. AB 2810 does nothing to address the numerous deficiencies and merely calls for yet another study. How many studies will it take and how many tax dollars must be spent to recognize that this program is not working because of the fundamental flaws in the statutes that govern the program?

Simply extending the existing governing statute until July 1, 2008, as AB 2810 proposes, does nothing to enhance protections for students, allows problems that have been well documented to continue to exist and merely allows mediocrity for California's students. I would like to see a proposal with the necessary reforms, and I will be releasing a preprint version of legislation shortly that provides for comprehensive reform. I want to work with the Legislature to pass legislation early next year so that our students will have the protections they deserve.

For these reasons, I am unable to sign this measure.

Sincerely,

Arnold Schwarzenegger